

The ARRL proposal seems the most reasonable to me of what has been submitted thus far. The only alteration I would make to it is to test the upgraded Techs and Tech Plus using the General test. Using a repeater hardly qualifies you to jump immediately into HF where everything is different. The small adjustments to accomodate more General users seem reasonable. I oppose any alterations which lump services together by bandwidth, since as a user of PSK31 I am frequently blasted by automated PACTOR and during contests RTTY stations. Something needs to be done probably toward simply setting aside areas for different emission types. PSK is certainly compatible with most CW stations as well as MFSK 16, for example. If rules are established which set aside areas for emssion types it will need to hashed and rehashed. Setting aside spectrum based purely on surface similary, however, produced the current fiasco of PACTOR stations operating as if the bands exist for them alone. I am certain that testing all the technicians will place a burden on volunteer examiners. But better that than place the burden on the rest of us when some without any additional knowledge jumps into HF.